

EUROF NEWS

11 MAY 2025

Periodic newsletter by

EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE
WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS



Visit us: eurof-wftu.eu/
Contact us: info@eurof-wftu.eu

Via dell'Aeroporto 127, Roma, (Italy)

WFTU 2025 Mayday declaration

The International Class-oriented Trade Union Movement, the workers, and the militant unions all over the globe honor with struggles the 139th anniversary of the workers' struggle in Chicago in 1886. The World Federation of Trade Unions, the most historic international trade union organisation, representing more than 105 million workers all the length and breadth of the world, sends a cordial and militant message to all the workers and farmers, to the ordinary people of toil and labour, on the occasion of International Workers Day, which constitutes a lasting and bright milestone of struggle.

This year's May Day coincides with the 80th Anniversary of the WFTU, which was born in the ashes of the most destructive war in the history of humanity in the revolutionary fresh air of the great anti-fascist victory of the peoples with the Soviet Union at the forefront, and completes 8 decades of continuous and uninterrupted struggle for the rights of workers, for justice and social progress, against all forms of discrimination, against wars and imperialist interventions, against may by man exploitation.

Both the messages and demands of the Chicago pioneers of 1886 and the needs that inevitably led to the establishment of the WFTU remain relevant and necessary today. The crisis of capitalism deepens and is generalized. Social inequalities are widening dramatically. Democratic freedoms and trade union rights are under attack all over the world, and the imperialist wars and interventions are on the daily agenda.

The genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza and in the West Bank, the bombing in Lebanon and other countries of the wider Middle East region, with the support and encouragement of the USA, the EU, and their allies, continues, revealing in all its grandeur the hypocrisy, cynicism, and inhumane nature of imperialism.

At the same time, global defence spending rose to 2.46 trillion USD last year, with big budget increases in countries of Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. Notably, there are examples of countries that are almost doubling their defence spending. At the same time, the USA President Trump calls for a minimum spending of 5% of GDP among NATO members, and the EU Commission Summit decided to finance 800 billion euros for military armament within the ReArm EUROPE project.

The shift towards a war economy is clearly a priority for the ruling circles of capitalism, as it incites profitability for multinational monopolies and the expansion of the geopolitical power of developed imperialist states.





These new massive increases in military spending, apart from being a threat to global peace and security, also mean even harsher austerity policies and widening social inequality. The resources that would be destined for families, workers, and ordinary people are cut and diverted to rearmament, and civil and social rights and liberties are placed under guardianship, because in the preparation for war, different opinion are not allowed. The WFTU and the class-oriented trade unions strongly condemn the war preparations of the bourgeoisie. The popular strata have nothing to expect from a new widespread and generalized war but death, poverty, destruction, refugees, and hardship. We demand spending for the contemporary needs of the workers and the peoples. We demand adequate education and healthcare and not weapons. We demand dignified working and living conditions and not ammunition and missiles. We demand spending on culture, sport, and recreation, and not fighter aircraft and naval vessels. We demand measures against rising inflation and living costs that erode living standards. We oppose privatization, outsourcing, and flexible forms of work that intensify the precarious employment and exploitation, alongside extended retirement ages. The Workers and social achievements are under relentless attacks and challenges undermining labor rights, collective agreements, and democratic freedoms. Workplace safety remains neglected, causing daily injuries and fatalities. Despite global challenges, workers do not passively accept the anti-labor offensive on their rights and freedoms. Millions mobilize worldwide for dignified work and the protection of trade union and social rights with the WFTU members to be firmly at the forefront of these struggles. The response of bourgeois governments to the just popular demands is the sharpening of state repression and authoritarianism. At the same time, employers and governments are attempting to manipulate labor struggles, betting on the role of yellow unions and compromised trade union leaders. In our era it is obvious that the prerequisites for truly dignified working and social living conditions for all workers exist in abundance. The class-oriented trade union movement fights so that the huge productive capabilities are not utilized to increase the profits of capitalists and create unimaginable wealth for a few, but to ensure dignified living and working conditions for those who create and produce the wealth. Organization and struggle is the only path that can overturn the existing realities of misery, exploitation, and social injustice. The weapon of workers everywhere is solidarity and internationalism. The WFTU remains firmly committed to these principles. It continues its 80-year path with the same vision that inspired its founding: for a world without wars and imperialist interventions, without exploitation and discrimination. A world where work will be permanent, stable, regulated, and safe.

On the occasion of May Day 2025, the WFTU calls upon the class and militant trade unions around the world to take initiatives and organize this year's campaign and activities under the slogan:

THEIR PROFITS OR OUR LIVES – HOPE LIES IN PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

NO TO WAR ECONOMIES

YES TO THE CLASS STRUGGLES:

- **AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST WARS AND INTERVENTIONS,**
- **AGAINST CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION,**
- **FOR THE SATISFACTION OF THE WORKERS' CONTEMPORARY NEEDS.**

Let the WFTU flag proudly wave along with the flags of the militant trade unions in the uninterrupted class struggle for stable work with rights, social security, free public, and universal health and education, a dignified life. This will be the highest and proper celebration of the glorious 80-year course of struggles, sacrifices, and dignity of the international class-oriented trade union movement.

LONG LIVE MAY DAY! LONG LIVE INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY! LONG LIVE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WFTU!



Newsletter editorial - may 2025 edition

The **Creteil Conference**, 28-30 January 2025, entrusted us with the extraordinary task of relaunching and consolidating the FSM in Europe. A task that is certainly not easy, but nevertheless of great importance for the whole of the FSM, which is also reorganising itself in Europe, starting with the 18th Congress in Rome in 2022.

The conference, promoted by the FSM European Regional Office and attended by 120 delegates from 21 countries, General Secretary Pambis Kyritsis, George Mavrikos, President of the I.W.I., **discussed the state of class trade unionism in Europe, the increasing drift towards concertation and the support given by the ETUC and its affiliated yellow trade unions to the neo-liberal policies of European governments and the European Union.**

The participation in the conference of many "observers", delegates from friendly unions, even if not yet members of the WSF, but interested in strengthening and stabilising relations with the international trade union, enriched the debate and highlighted the need to intensify moments of political confrontation and direct relations beyond the current Eurof borders.

The issue of the war in Europe and its possible global developments were at the centre of the debate, as well as the tragic situation in **Palestine**, which is the subject of a declared attempt to wipe the State of Palestine off the map once and for all, through a policy of genocide by the Zionist State of Israel, with the total silence and **complicity of the European Parliament and European governments.** The consequences of the war economy, of the austerity policies that, in obedience to the dictates of the EU, determine the decisions of the governments of the countries, were presented by the delegates, who were thus able to understand better how the same anti-grass roots and anti-worker decisions are applied today throughout the European Union.

Blocking of wages and bargaining, attack on trade union rights, further restrictions on the right to strike, increase in murders and accidents at work, attack on pensions and the right to health, staggering increase in precariousness, spread of bad work, denial of the right to housing, deindustrialisation and conversion of factories to arms production, and the list could go on and on. Faced with this situation and with the prospect of a certain further deterioration in living and working conditions, also as a result of the new protectionist policy of the USA and the announced ReArm Europe plan and the social and economic costs that this will entail, **the unity of struggle of European workers becomes fundamental.**

The conference therefore defined a rich plan of action, for the realisation of which the militant contribution of all organisations is necessary, as well as the beginning of a reorganisation process that, starting with an enlargement and a more precise allocation of political/organisational tasks to the members of the secretariat, must lead us to the 19th Congress with a larger, more active and politically cohesive FSM Europe.



WFTU Presidential Council Declaration for the 80 years anniversary

On October 3, 1945, in the aftermath of the Second World War, in the revolutionary fresh air of the great anti-fascist victory of the peoples with the Soviet Union at the forefront, at the historic Palais de Chaillot in Paris, trade unions from all around the world united to establish the World Federation of Trade Unions. This landmark moment, indelibly etched in the history of the international trade union movement, set in motion an enduring struggle for workers' rights, dignity, and international solidarity, for permanent peace, against imperialist wars, for a world without discrimination, and the exploitation of man by man.



For 80 years, the WFTU has stood as a beacon of internationalism and a powerful voice for workers worldwide. Guided by an uncompromising commitment to class struggle and unity, its affiliates have mobilized across continents to face every challenge. Under the flag of the WFTU, the working class has achieved its greatest victories. The flag of the WFTU was raised in all the small and great struggles for national and social liberation. The WFTU defended the people and the revolution of Cuba, the people of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Korea in their right to follow their own independent path against colonialism and imperialism. It supported the struggle of the South African people against Apartheid for freedom and independence, struggled for the decolonization in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, and stood and continues standing by the heroic Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and dignity!

Today, as we commemorate this historic milestone, we reaffirm the pillars that continue to guide our actions. Our resolute anti-imperialist struggle remains at the core of our mission, as we consistently oppose imperialist interventions and wars that undermine the sovereignty and dignity of the peoples around the world.

Central to our mission is the relentless protection of workers' rights, guaranteeing access to health, education, dignified work, and social security for all.

The WFTU actively participates in international organizations, a participation which amplifies the voice of the working class and forges strategic alliances in our struggle against oppression.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to the education and ideological empowerment of workers, ensuring that every individual is equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary for an informed and militant struggle.

As we look back on the proud history of the WFTU and the sacrifices made by generations of trade unionists, we also celebrate the present strength and growing influence of the international class-oriented trade union movement. Today, the WFTU represents the voice of more than 105 million members from 133 countries—a testament to our expanding reach and enduring commitment to our just struggles. With each passing year, our membership grows not only in numbers but also in strength and unity, reaffirming our role and task as a pioneering force in the international trade union movement.

As we officially declare 2025 as a year of celebrations for the 80th anniversary, we announce that several activities, campaigns, and events will be organized by our bodies, structures, and affiliates. We call upon every worker of the world to join the World Federation of Trade Unions in this rich plan of action, in this rich plan of struggles! Our ambition with these celebrations is to highlight the history of the struggles and actions of the WFTU and to showcase its distinction from organizations of compromised trade unionists and yellow unions that promote class collaboration and integration into the system of exploitation.

This anniversary is not only a moment of remembrance but also a call to action. We reaffirm our dedication to advancing the founding principles of the WFTU by engaging workers across all sectors and generations, opposing imperialist interventions, and promoting universal rights to a life of dignity.

With dignity, honoring our 80 years of class struggles, we continue fighting for a future where workers are free from poverty, discrimination, and inequality. We honor the struggles of the international class-oriented trade union movement for peace and against imperialist wars, and we are committed continuing and strengthening these struggles.

With internationalism and solidarity!
WFTU Presidential Council
March 5, 2025



WFTU Presidential Council - Hanoi meeting - 4/5 march Pierpaolo Leonardi's speech (EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE)

Dear President
Dear General Secretary
Dear General Secretary of the VGCL
Dear Comrades of the Presidential Council

First of all, I would like to thank the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) for its hospitality, and greet the people, the Communist Party and government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the country's reunification after the victory over US imperialism.



For me, who as a young communist participate in all the demonstrations in support of the anti imperialist struggle of Vietnamese people, it truly a joy and an emotion to be here. Today, as then, we stand by the glorious struggle led by the Communist Party of Vietnam and Comrade Ho Ci Minh.

Since our last meeting in Brazil, the international situation has undergone a great acceleration, which has led to new arrangements in the inter-imperialist conflict. The rupture of the Euro-Atlantic axis is blowing up the existing international order, at least in the West.

The USA, with the re-election of Trump, wants to regain a new world leadership after years of hegemonic decline, while at the same time trying, through the imposition of tariffs, to offload its colossal internal debt on Europe and neighbouring countries, such as Mexico, with which it has an import surplus.

Behind Trump's intervention to stop the war in Ukraine, we can also see an attempt to weaken the Russia-China relationship through his rapprochement with Putin, and internally, the need to recover from the enormous costs borne by the US in terms of military supplies and economic commitment, which he is also realising through very significant cuts in state military spending and apparatus. In this picture, which will become clearer with time, the European Union shows all the fragility of the structure on which it was built and the incapacity of the European ruling classes and bourgeoisie, which had completely submitted to the USA in the clash between the Euro-Atlantic bloc and the Euro-Asian bloc.

Today, the EU is the main target of the new US protectionist policy, which is directly attacking the EU with the policy of tariffs, the change of perspective on Ukraine, the end of the military protection of Article 5 of the NATO Statute, to which the EU ruling classes respond with rearmament, other 800 billion euros, the establishment of a European army and the sending of troops to Ukraine.

The answer of the Italian yellow unions, affiliated to the ETUC, is to take part in a national demonstration, under only the EU flags, promoted by the liberal left parties on support of Ukraine and therefore in support of the nomination of the war and the doubling of military spending.

In this certainly worsening picture for the workers, the European Conference of the WFTU Regional Office on 28-30 January in Paris opened the discussion on the state of the organisation, the tasks ahead and the action plan for the coming years to promote the establishment of the WFTU in Europe, its consolidation and enlargement.

More than 120 delegates from 21 countries confirmed the good health of the WFTU also in the European region and laid the foundations for the re-launch of the WFTU in one of the high points of capitalism.

The fight against militarisation and war, the development of regional initiatives on the most relevant issues for the workers: wages, employment, precariousness, pensions, the situation of women and young people, the fight against war, the right to strike and collective bargaining, the ideological delegates' training as the main areas of intervention, through a reorganisation and expansion of the European Secretariat and a more intense and concrete relationship with the T.U.I. . All the documents, the introductory speech, the conclusions and the action plan were unanimously adopted by the delegates at the end of the conference. This important outcome was the result of a discussion that also took into account different positions within the Secretariat.

The Comrades can read all the approved documents on Eurof website and social.

The conference approved motions of solidarity with the Palestinian people for an end to the genocide by the Zionist state of Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, support for socialist Cuba, which has been suffering for decades under an increasingly suffocating economic and trade blockade that is severely straining the country's social resilience. The Eurof Conference also adopted other motions in support of the struggle against the dismissal and repression of trade union leaders for their commitment to the struggle and the establishment of a World Day of Struggle against Precariousness, which we submit to the Presidium for its adoption.



The EUROF WFTU Conference reaffirmed our constitutive and fundamental characteristics of internationalism, anti-fascism, anti-imperialism and against the war which were reaffirmed by the 18th World Congress in Rome, and gave great importance to the anniversary of the birth of the WFTU at the Paris Conference on 3 October 1945 and launched a strong call for membership, participation and support for all initiatives to honour the 80th anniversary of the birth of the WFTU, which began its glorious and important history in Paris in 1945, where we will return to honour it properly.

**Long live WFTU.
Long live internationalist solidarity.
Long live the 80th WFTU anniversary**

Eurof WFTU call to mobilize against war and the militarization of the European Union

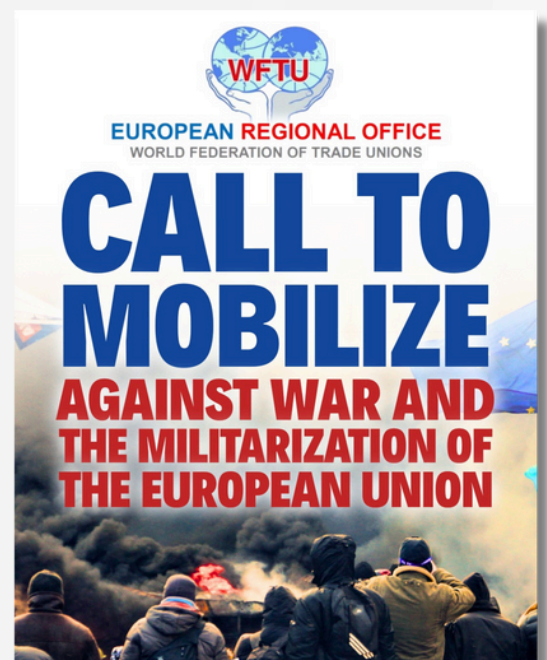
The European Office of the WFTU strongly condemns the dangerous and anti-popular decisions of the EU Commission Summit to finance 800 billion euros for military armament within the ReArm EUROPE project.

The re-election of Donald Trump as president of the United States brings a significant change of perspective for the European Union and for the countries of Europe. The U.S. attack on Europe to make it rearm and provide for its own internal security is causing real panic in the chancelleries of the old continent, which are preparing to remove all reservations about the constitution of a European army and to plan rearmament through huge appropriations, more than 800 billion euros, freed from any budgetary constraint and stability pact. We're preparing for war and we're sparing no expense. Everything that used to be considered taboo, exceeding financial constraints and breaking the Stability Pact when countries needed to do so to face the economic crisis and thus finance health care, pensions and salaries, is now a concrete practice that doesn't even require that simulacrum of democracy that is parliamentary approval. The European Commission decides and acts without any legitimacy. The European countries and governments submit and agree without any reference to the fundamental laws, the constitutions, which in many cases prohibit the use of war to resolve international disputes.

This accelerates the processes of militarization and the consequent establishment of a real war economy to finance the purchase of arms and the creation of additional military contingents to be trained, armed and paid. Therefore, the resources that would be destined for families, workers and ordinary people are cut and diverted to rearmament, and civil and social rights and liberties are placed under guardianship, because in the preparation for war, democracy and dissent are not allowed.

The international worker's movement has always taken on the responsibility of opposing and fighting war tendencies, and once again it is up to the world of workers organized in class unions to organize the resistance against the rearmament and war policies of the European Union.

EUROF WFTU call on all the trade unions of our continent to mobilize, to take to the streets against the rearmament and the creation of a European army, against the war economy and to denounce the desire of the European Union to establish itself as a real imperialist pole.



NO WAR, NO ReArm E.U.!
More resources for Health-Education-Pension-Wage Increases